

over the Civil Rights Act of 1991. He quoted to us from Richard Wright's book, "Native Son" to remind us of the cost of this Nation's terrible legacy of discrimination. "It's like living in a jail," said one of the characters, a young African-American boy. "Half the time I feel I'm on the outside of the world peeping in through a knothole in the fence."

That day BILL COHEN reminded us how racism eats away at the human spirit and turns hope to despair. His willingness to stand firm against a storm of partisan pressure ensured that all Americans would take one more step toward a world free of discrimination.

BILL COHEN has shown that willingness in other key situations, too. As a young Representative in 1974, he was one of few members who crossed party lines to hold the President accountable for his actions, and he was the sole Republican vote against last year's Republican budget reconciliation package.

He has also been a leader in terms of bipartisan initiatives, especially in the area of defense, where he has developed special expertise. Throughout his career, he has been a strong supporter of important arms control measures and has worked to build bipartisan coalitions to implement them.

As he leaves us after nearly 25 years, I think it is only fitting to say farewell to one of our most literary Senators with an appropriate quotation. It was John Steinbeck who wrote in his novel "East of Eden" that a successful person was one, "whose effective life was devoted to making men brave and dignified and good in a time when they were poor and frightened and when ugly forces were loose in the world to utilize their fears."

BILL COHEN is indeed a successful person.

We wish him great success in his future. We hope that he returns many times for he has many friends here on both sides of the aisle.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STERLING FOREST

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, within the last hour or so I have had several calls in my office from various media, including the New York Times, asking for comments on why the Senator from Alaska would insist on killing the passage of the Sterling Forest—that is that issue that affects both New Jersey and New York, with a purchase of private lands with Federal funds—by insisting that my Tongass

provision prevail? And how could I possibly take such an action and stop this process?

First of all, I think it is important for the Record to note the circumstances, as I understand them, that occurred in the House among the leadership at approximately 6:30 this morning, or thereabouts, because I think it reflects on the process around here. Some of it does need some airing. At that time, it was the intent of the leadership on the House side to include in the CR, to accommodate Senator HATFIELD and his contribution to this body, the so-called Mount Hood Parks package, and other incidental considerations.

Then, there was a communication from the White House that there should be an accommodation on another issue as well, and that was the San Francisco Bay cleanup proposal, a proposal that is worthy, a proposal that is in the omnibus parks bill, as well as the Sterling Forest, which is in that bill, which I support.

Now, there was no effort in that dialog to suggest that the San Francisco Bay was added anymore than to complement the accommodation on Mount Hood; and to suggest that we were in some way responsible for removing Sterling Forest from that legislative structure is absolutely incorrect and misleading, to say the least. Sterling Forest was subject to a point of order in the House under a blue line, for technical reasons, and that was of no concern to this body.

So, I would say to my colleagues, as some begin to point the finger of blame, that while it had been understood that the leadership was going to attempt to accommodate the Sterling Forest, initially, to complement the Mount Hood and Hatfield package, that the Tongass matter did not enter into that consideration under any terms or circumstances. And if the leadership and those attending that meeting saw fit to remove the Sterling Forest from that deliberation, that was entirely their own accord. They may have felt it may have been more politically expedient to add the San Francisco Bay cleanup to the CR, rather than the Sterling Forest. I guess it is fair to say that is beyond my pay grade.

But I want the RECORD to reflect that, as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we stand ready to continue a dialog on the 126 sections that are in the parks-Presidio package. We have indicated a willingness to work with the administration, by letter which was sent down there last night.

So that we can all understand the current posture, it is my understanding that in the CR, there will be two items now. There will be the Mount Hood and the San Francisco Bay cleanup as a consequence of the leadership action taken in the House. There will not be the Sterling Forest, there will not be the Tongass, there will not be the Utah Snow Basin, nor the other 123 very im-

portant items that we reported out of our committee.

So, if any of the House Members are suggesting that the chairman has stood in the way of trying to pass this omnibus legislation, the record should reflect otherwise and should reflect specifically that my initial interest was a 15-year extension for the Ketchikan sawmill, which I withdrew after the administration threatened to veto that. That was a pretty significant sacrifice, but nevertheless, it was made.

I think that should provide an adequate explanation for those who suggest that somehow we stood in the way of the leadership action, in moving on the CR accompanying the Mount Hood package, that we stood in the way of the Sterling Forest. We did not.

I thank the Chair. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR MARK HATFIELD

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, in the next day or two, we will be closing the 104th Congress. One of the things we will be doing is saying farewell to some of our colleagues who have served this institution and served our country so well.

One of the colleagues I would like to recognize today who I have the greatest respect for is Senator HATFIELD who served this body and our country so well for the last 30 years in the U.S. Senate.

Prior to that, he served the State of Oregon for 8 years as Governor. He also served in the Oregon House of Representatives, the Oregon Senate, and also served as Oregon Secretary of State, and had a distinguished career in the Navy, including the time during World War II.

MARK HATFIELD is a unique Senator, a courageous individual, independent, sometimes stubborn, a person with strong personal religious convictions, a person whom I know people on both sides of the aisle, Democrat and Republican, have really grown to know, to love, and respect. His years of service as the Appropriations chairman and also ranking member on the Appropriations Committee have been outstanding. He has an outstanding rapport with my colleague, Senator BYRD. To see the two of them work in tandem, and work so well, has certainly been a role model for all of us.

He also, as I think some of my colleagues know, is a historian, a lover and collector of items in relation to Abraham Lincoln. He is a person who has made invaluable contributions to this body and to our country. Certainly